



**Greater Boston Breathes Better
Working Group Meeting Notes
September 27, 2005**

Attendees:

Sarah Barbrow: Environmental Defense	Sam Krasnow: Environment Northeast
Holly Bogle: Harvard University	Steven Lanou: MIT
John Bolduc: City of Cambridge	Steven Levy: Sprague Energy
Andy Frongila: Burke Oil	Kim Lundgren: ICLEI
Kevin O'Leary: Burke Oil	Stephen Winslow: City of Somerville
Tony Chaves: EOEa	Christine Sansevero: EPA
Lucy Edmondson: EPA	Carl Spector: City of Boston
Patrick Field: CBI	Michael Stoddard: Environment Northeast
Halida Hatic: EPA	Jacquelyn Wilkins: Massport
Janice Kearney: MBTA	

Introductions and Overview

Patrick Field convened the meeting with introductions and an overview of the agenda. Additional topics were solicited, however none were provided.

GB3 welcomes several new members to the group, including, new GB3 staff, Sarah Barbrow (Environmental Defense) and Halida Hatic (EPA).

GB3 Workplan

Lucy Edmondson provided an overview of the Fall 2005/Winter 2006 Workplan, highlighting the priority activities that the WG Agenda addresses in more detailed discussions.

Steven Lanou mentioned his conversations with Ellen Tohn and described her role in MIT's efforts to adopt construction retrofit requirements as "keeping them focused". He also mentioned a need for model bid spec language as well as a forum in which to discuss the concerns, issues and interests of the contractors.

Holly Bogle noted that there is a new person at Harvard who will be working on construction retrofits and that in addition to a meeting/workshop for contractors, it would be helpful to have a list of contractors.

Lucy Edmondson confirmed a commitment to planning a workshop to address these questions and concerns which would also include contractors from the Big Dig and others who can share their experiences with successful retrofit projects.

GB3 Certificate Program

Halida Hatic presented a draft version of the GB3 Certificate Program which outlines a multi-tier system for recognizing various levels of achievement and partnership. Regional Administrator Robert W. Varney and EOEA Secretary Stephen Pritchard have been asked to sign the certificate as they represent the lead agencies. Confirmation has not been received on Secretary Pritchard's participation; however, EOEA has approved a draft version of the certificate with the Secretary's name. GB3 will follow up and confirm the Secretary's involvement.

The following questions were posed during the discussion:

- What kind of press coverage would be provided?
- Is the bar too low – should there be a minimum threshold for achieving a certificate that is higher than simply qualifying as a Best Workplace for Commuters (BWC)?
- How many levels should we have?
- What benefits are attractive?
- Would it be better to start at the silver level?

Concern was expressed over providing GB3 recognition to those organizations/employers who already receive recognition through the EPA's BWC campaign. Participating in one voluntary program was noted as being too low of a threshold. The comment was made, however, that a lower threshold encourages people to join, gets them "on the hook" and then compels them to move up.

A subcommittee was formed to work through the details of the program, to address the aforementioned questions/concerns and to develop a final version for distribution and discussion. The subcommittee members include, Halida Hatic, Steven Lanou and Holly Bogle.

Next Steps:

- The subcommittee will meet to finalize the Certificate Program and materials for the Fall Event.
- EOEA will confirm the participation of Secretary Stephen Pritchard as a signatory.

Small Business Innovation Program

Patrick Field introduced the Small Business Innovation Program to the working group members. The intent of the program is to provide smaller businesses and organizations with the opportunity to receive credit and recognition for activities that contribute to a reduction in air pollution through commuter benefits packages, construction retrofit requirements, anti-idling outreach and multi-pollutant reductions.

The following questions were posed during the open discussion:

- Is it too complicated as currently described?
- Can an organization “buy” its way out?
- Is there an organization we can work with to pilot this program?
- What is the criterion for success?
- Could there be a natural connection between this program and ICLEI’s Cities for Climate Protection?
- How difficult and/or practical is it to track the points?
- Is there a need for more emissions statistics behind the program?
- Who is going to administer the program?

Members emphasized that it is important that the assigned points reflect meaningful reductions.

Potential partners for piloting the program include:

- Cambridge Chamber of Commerce – Halida and Lucy have a contact
- Local TMA’s – discuss with David Strauss and Jim Gascoigne
- Cities for Climate Protection – Kim Lundgren
- Environmental Business Council
- Redevelopment Authorities
- Community Development Corporations
- Boston Business Journal (Top 100 places to work – what is the criteria and can BWC be incorporated?)
- Massport contacts

In general, there was concern around the program’s overall effectiveness and ability to reflect meaningful reductions. One working group member recommended that telecommuting and membership in a TMA should receive more points.

A subcommittee was formed to finalize the Small Business Innovation Program. Subcommittee members include, Patrick Field, Kim Lundgren, and David Strauss and/or Jim Gascoigne.

Next Steps:

- Subcommittee will meet to finalize the Small Business Innovation Program and materials and report back to the Working Group.

Mission Statement

Sarah Barbrow facilitated a discussion on the GB3 Mission Statement. Two versions were distributed and read out loud. Comments included the need to be clear about the partnership, what GB3 is targeting and our ability to provide access to funding.

Next Steps:

- GB3 will incorporate the comments and distribute a final version to the WG.

Fall Event

Patrick Field and Lucy Edmondson facilitated a discussion on GB3's achievements to date and the opportunity to highlight these successes in a Fall 2005 kickoff event. Pat described the Fall Event as a leveraging point – an opportunity for GB3 to secure additional commitments from partners. Lucy mentioned that the upcoming grant announcement for the 2005 National Clean Diesel Grant competition is being awarded to a GB3 member and presents an ideal opportunity to celebrate GB3 partners and their achievements.

Fall event suggestions included a daytime event such as creating a clean air trolley tour that starts in Boston and travels to Cambridge. The Trolley Tour would include EPA Regional Administrator Bob Varney, EOEa Secretary Stephen Pritchard and the press. Sarah Barbrow will explore the possibility of incorporating the Red Sox, and Ed Burke will look into contacts with the Patriots. A subcommittee was formed to work with EPA on the development of this event. Subcommittee members include, Lucy Edmondson, Sarah Barbrow, Patrick Field, Halida Hatic, Steven Levy, and someone from EOEa.

Next Steps:

- EPA will work with the press staff at EOEa to prepare for a GB3 kickoff event in early November. GB3 Certificates will be awarded to those partners who meet the criteria.

Construction Workshop

Lucy Edmondson briefed the group on the August 1st retrofit meeting where a presentation by Alex Kasprak of the MTA and a discussion of next steps for members took place.

A workshop will be planned for the winter (January/February 2006) to bring together contractors and the persons responsible for writing bid specs, to understand their concerns about construction retrofits and the upcoming changes to rule changes for fuel usage. Examples of model bid spec language will be provided to communities as requested. Updates to construction contract language will be made as new versions are successfully adopted.

A subcommittee was formed to explore the best practices for construction retrofits and to plan for a winter construction workshop. Subcommittee members include, Michael Stoddard, Steven Levy and Ellen Tohn with MIT and Harvard.

Next Steps:

- The subcommittee will meet to begin planning a workshop for January/February 2006.

Northeast Diesel Collaborative

Christine Sansevero provided a brief overview of the Northeast Diesel Collaborative, a joint venture among EPA Regions 1, 2, NESCAUM and the eight Northeast states to

reduce diesel emissions from mobile sources. One of the primary goals of the Collaborative is to promote local initiatives like GB3 in other communities throughout the Northeast.

Announcements

Below is a link to information about the availability of grant funds for State/Local/Tribal Innovative Approaches to Reducing Air Pollution. There are two \$50,000 grants available. EPA has extended the deadline for application from the original deadline of September 30th. EPA has not yet established a new deadline, but will post that information, along with other information about the grant at:

<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/airinnovations/funding.html>

Based on a review of the 2004 winners, EPA seeks to fund creative projects that reduce air pollution in local communities. Projects can target stationary, area, or mobile sources.